

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "DISCIAS" RATHBUN, 1902 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)

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In 1902 Miss M. J. Rathbun (*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **4**: 290) described a genus *Discias* from the Galapagos Islands and made it the type of a new family that she named DISCIDAE, but that at present more correctly is generally called DISCIADIDAE. After the original publication of this name by Rathbun, four more species of the genus were discovered, two in the Atlantic, and two in the Indo-West-Pacific region. Though the published records of these animals are rather few (because of their small size they probably have often been overlooked), the genus is well known to carcinologists because of its very peculiar features.

2. In 1893 Ortmann (*Ergebn. Plankton Exped.* **2**(Gb) : 74) described from the Atlantic Ocean a larval Macruran, which he named *Anisocaris dromedarius*, erecting a monotypic new genus for it. Gurney's (1939, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (11) **3** : 388-393) and Lebour's (1941, *J. linn. Soc. Lond.*(Zool.) **41** : 95-102) researches on larval Decapoda made it clear that *Anisocaris dromedarius* Ortmann, 1893, is the larva of a species of *Discias* Rathbun, 1902. A strict application of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature would require that the generic name *Discias* should be replaced by that of *Anisocaris*. The identity of the species *Anisocaris dromedarius* is not known, it may be the larva of either of the two Atlantic *Discias* species, but might as well be the larva of a species of which the adult form is still unknown.

3. In view of the fact (1) that the name *Discias* has become firmly established in carcinological literature, (2) that the name *Anisocaris* has hardly ever been used, and has never been employed for adult specimens, and (3) that it is undesirable that the family DISCIADIDAE should not contain a genus bearing the name *Discias*, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is hereby asked :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

- (a) to suppress for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy the generic name *Anisocaris* Ortmann, 1893 (*Ergebn. Plankton Exped.* **2** (Gb) : 72, 74) (type species, by monotypy : *Anisocaris dromedarius* Ortmann, 1893, *Ergebn. Plankton Exped.* **2** (Gb) : 74) ;
- (b) to validate the generic name *Discias* Rathbun, 1902 (*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, **4** : 290) (type species, by monotypy : *Discias serrifer* Rathbun, 1902, *Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, **4**: 290) (gender: masculine) ;

- (2) to place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the name *Discias* Rathbun, 1902, as validated under (1) (b) above ;
- (3) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* the name *Anisocaris* Ortmann, 1893, as suppressed under (1) (a) above ;
- (4) to place on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* the specific name *serrifer* Rathbun, 1902, as published in the binomen *Discias serrifer* ;
- (5) to place on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* the name DISCIADIDAE (correction by Kemp (1920, *Rec. ind. Mus.* **19** : 137, 138) of DISCIDAE) Rathbun, 1902 (*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.* **4** : 289) (type genus : *Discias* Rathbun, 1902) ;
- (6) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* the under-mentioned names :—
 - (a) DISCIDAE Rathbun, 1902 (an Invalid Original Spelling for DISCIADIDAE) ;
 - (b) DISCIIDAE Lebour, 1949 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* **118** (4) : 1107) (an Erroneous Subsequent Spelling for DISCIADIDAE).